TO

The Right Honourable

THE

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

AND

COMMISSIONERS

Of His Majeſties NAVY.

The Humble addreſs of Colonel Walter Slingsby *being his Apology or Defence againſt a late Charge exhibited.*

May it pleaſe your Honours,

BEfore I Enter upon any one Branch of my Accuſations, or matter of Fact; I Humbly Crave the Favour of a ſmall Digreſſion, that we may Weigh things Rightly, we ſhall judge of them the better, and a little diſcuſs the original of this formidable Charge: The *Primum Mobile*, or Wheel, which firſt ſet this buſineſs on work: The circumſtances and proceedings of it; which (to avoid all offence) I will touch upon as moderately, tenderly, and briefly as I can, and as my wounded Reputation will permit.

Some Inform me of a Friend or Kinſman in the Caſe, which came to my Ear from Mr. *Deans* Houſe, and although I cannot averr it poſitively at preſent, yet there appear to me ſo many high probabilities of a great Truth, that I doubt not of bringing it to light in a ſhort time.

However, be pleaſed Firſt to conſider theſe Ill-favoured and bad Complexioned circumſtances attending; which (like a black Comet) hung over my head, menacing and portending ſome diſmal Event towards me. He gives me his conſent to go to *London*, where I was no ſooner arrived but he claps a Survey upon my Back, ſuffering none for me in my abſence, to be on my behalf on the Survey, a thing never done before; my Books in my Office were Seized by Mr. *Deane*, and kept many Weaks in his hand; conſidering I have

not been educated in the thing, what injury and wrong may not thus be done me? He carrys them to a Boy at the Controulers Office, and orders him to write what he dictates; how it was carried I know not, only that the young man is advanced a double pay, my Vouchers for juſt Iſſues were diſcountenanced, and not permitted to paſs in the laſt Accounts. Letters were ſent up to *Whitehall* (diſperſing there for truth, much to my diſadvantage) that there were grand imbezlements of *Cables, Canvas, Cordage, Nailes, &c.* which hath appeared otherwiſe, and conſequently a great Injury.

And leaſt theſe Repotts ſhould find leſs credit in that place, among men of honour, who have known me long, and who (as they are careful of their own honour) are tender of another Gentlemans: Up-ſtarts a diligent Inſtrument in hopes, no doubt, of getting my place, who ſends up Letters with Prodigious Intelligence, (one even to the Lords of the Admiralty) wherein I am impeached to have imbezeld ſo many Yards of *Canvas*; to this no name ſubſcribed, an unknown Author, a practiſe ſo inhumane, that a Genrleman cannot think himſelf ſafe to live in a Nation, where ſuch barbarity meets not with ſevere puniſhment. But although he acted behind the Curtain, as aſhamed of his monſtrous ſhape and name, I have been obliged to Mr. *Dean* for his name, and doubt not of having Juſtice upon him. We have changed now to *Nefanda promovere juvas*: He muſt put his helping hand to my ruine, and becauſe my Condition was bad, make it worſe; in ſuch a time you ſhall never want ſuch a Villain to Act his part, when the buſineſs is once on work, taking pleaſure to promote miſchief; like thoſe who (when *London* was on Fire) inſtead of laying helping hands on the work, imployed their filching Fingers to Purloyn and ſteal. That which I look upon withal imaginable indignation is the word *Diſhoneſt*, which this Brute beſtowed upon me. That *Epithet* might have been either let alone, or ſent to *Newgate* to find a Parent, and not father it upon an old Gentleman, the Integrity of whoſe whole Life is ſo well known, that I ſcorn to move my Pen in its defence.

Vertues ſtand in the account of Crimes in Maligne Eyes, though I can attribute little to my ſelf, neither would I ſay thus much, ſaw I not that 'tis moſt ordinary practiſe in this Vitiated and Debauched Age to deſpiſe vertue, and laugh at a reſerved temper. A well hatched confidence ſhall over-run and trample upon any ſober and modeſt Man. Thus was I environed with a ſhowre of Arrows ſhot in the dark, but right enough levelled, every one bringing Death or Infamy; and yet not knowing certainly how or by whom whom wounded. *Tu ne cede malis, ſed contra audentior ito Moderator Orbis audiet preces tuas.*

The firſt Motion, was (in my judgment) raſh, and in too much haſt; it might have been better ſpared: Seeing it is no ſmall matter to touch a Gentlemans honour ſo near and cloſe, without better and more certain grounds. Eſpecially, it being ſent to *Whitehal*, the Place where His Sacred Majeſty,

Majeſty, His Royal Brother, and ſo many Perſons of Great Honour reſide; and then be put to diſcountenance Vouchers, and order Books and Ballance at pleaſure, and all to make what was writ good. That which grieves me moſt at preſent is; that, by this undue practiſe; I have lain long under a heavy Cenſure of moſt, and perhaps under ſome ſuſpition of my beſt friends; which conſideration hath rouzed me up to make the beſt Defence I can, although I am put upon a deſperate after-game, *Nobile Vincendi genus eſt Patientia.* I doubt not but by this, ſo to revive my ſullied Reputation, that I may ſtand as fair in the Opinion of Men as ever.

And now I am come to matter of Fact.

I am Charged to have imbezel'd a quantity of *Canvas*, under pretence and claim as a Perquiſite: It being the Inches, which Merchants allow (who ſerve *Canvas* into the Stores) for waſt in cutting Sails; and this juſtified to be practicable in my Predeceſſors time, as appeareth by what follows,

James Etherington *Sail-maker upon examination ſaith, and will depoſe upon Oath, if it be required.*

That Mr. Samuel Knight, *Clerke to Mr.* Benjamin Johnſon, (*late Store-Keeper*) *did uſe frequently to come into the* Canvas-*Loft, when the Cloth was meaſuring, and gave charge to be juſt between the King and Merchant: and to take care of and preſerve the Inches allowed for waſt.*

Take notice I beſeech you, that this Mr. *Knight* was the moſt approved Clerk, that hath at any time been known in that Yard; and who (in conſideration of his abilities and integrity) had a double Salary allowed him. This ſerves fully and ſufficiently enough to prove it (if not a perquiſite) a practiſe at leaſt before my time, which was a ſtrong inducement to me to attempt the ſame. Is it poſſible that this ſmall thing ſhould lye in the view of all, from generation to generation, and never taken into enquiry, until it was found a proper Inſtrument to wound me withal. And where ſhould I lodge it more properly than with the Sail-maker, that he might imploy part to that uſe to which it was intended, and be accomptable to me for the Remainder. But here was no *Furtum* in the Caſe, no Claudeſtine actings; but done in the open day, as uſual, before ſeveral Perſons whoſe duty brought them thither. In which, notwithſtanding I was ſo tender, that I gave it off until I could be better aſſured whether the thing was lawful or no, as appeareth by what followeth.

Corne-

Cornelius Price *upon Examination ſaith and will depoſe.*

That Colonel Walter Slingesby *did forbear taking the Inches for waſt two ſeveral cuttings of Sails; his reaſon beſt known to himſelf.*

I will then give my own Reaſon for it: I ſat my ſelf once out of curioſity to ſee how it did ariſe; and (finding it too conſiderable to continue) gave it off leaſt I ſhould tranſgreſs too far. Then I reſolved (hoping no juſt perſon will condemn me, for improving a ſmall imploy to my advantage, as far as I could juſtly do it) to underſtand the thing throughly; and to that very purpoſe, haſtned up to *London*, where I fell deſperately ſick, and my friend (who had known the cuſtomes of this Yard long, and with whom I intended to adviſe) gone out of Town. In the interim the Mine ſprung, laid to blow me up; on the noiſe of which; ſick as I was, I returned to *Portſmouth*, to know what aſſaults were made upon me, not knowing what Mr. *Dean* was doing. Aſſoon as I was better informed, I ſatisfied the Sail-maker, and all the *Canvas* was brought into the Stores immediately, and cut into Sails for His Majeſties uſe; ſo that the King is no way damaged or a ſufferer. And all this amounted to no more than Twenty Five Pound in Three Years time. Eight Pound and a Noble paid, and yet this little hath made as great a noiſe, as it was carried on againſt me, as if I had ſtolen the Crown out of the *Tower*.

I am above meaſure troubled that ſo ſlender a matter ſhould raiſe a ſtorm in any breaſt, unleſs it were inculcated by the force of an irreſiſtible inſinuation, with an ingredient which gives the whole matter but an ill ſavour, backed by monſtrous Repreſentations, groſs miſtakes, and depoſitions invalid, vvherein are aggravating vvords put in, vvhich never came from the Deponents Mouth, as vvill appear in the following Diſcourſe.

If all Men, vvho eat the Kings Bread, vvere as ſcrutinouſly inſpected, as I have been in this Caſe, many would quickly find themſelves *Super pinnaculum glaciale*: An errour I acknowledg to have unskilfully and ignorantly committed: and am as ſorry for it, as a Gentleman ought to be, who hath at preſent thereby incurr'd His Majeſties diſpleaſure, and expoſed his own Credit to too much ſuſpition among many, who are apt to take things at the firſt bound as certain truth, eſpecially ſuch as know not the nature of the thing, neither have knowledge of my Life or Perſon. *Humanum eſt errare, Diabolicum perſeverare.* Therefore, conſidering vvith vvhat tenderneſs I began, how freely I deſiſted, and vvith vvhat Juſtice to the King the Canvas vvas reſtored for his uſe, together vvith the inconſiderableneſs of the value, I truſt in God I may meet with more favour, and a fairer, and more candid interpre-

interpretation, then to be too much expoſed in my Old Age with my Family. I may ſafely avow it, that I am a Hundred Pound the worſe ſince I came to the Imployment, and in caſe of removal ſhall be Fifty more. It hath not enabled me in Three Years time to purchaſe a ſmal Nagg to carry me, although this Aire hath given me viſible decays, and my Limbs grown decrepit.

I will not glory in the ſervices of my Family, nor boaſt of my own; now the oldeſt and laſt, ſave one remaining, which were ſo engaged. We did all but our duty, and I can derive to my ſelf no merit from their worth. The Pagan *Ariſtocracy* uſed to ſend into the Field with their Legions this their old *Adage Dulce & decorum eſt pro patria mori.* With much more reaſon it may be ſaid that it is Honourable for a Family to periſh in the defence of a Chriſtian Monarchy, and ſay no more. I have learned that in the word of a King there is power, and no man may ſay, what doth he? With which the Law concurrs, and ſayes the King can do no wrong. I will therefore throw my ſelf humbly at the Kings Feet as a Free *Victim* or Sacrifice to his Royal Will and Pleaſure, and what ever His Sacred Majeſty ſhall determine, I will bleſs God, and be content.

And now for the Imbezlement of Canvas, Cables, Cordage, Nailes, Sheathing-Lead, *&c.*

Firſt for the Canvas.

It is charged that Five Thouſand Nine Hundred and Twenty two Yards are imbezel'd: It is ſtrange to me that any rational man ſhould think this poſſible; there being only my ſelf, Clerk, and two Aſſiſtants who touch the Keys of the Stores at any time: One of which three latter, brings them in a Bag every Night, when the Labourers have done working, and lodges them in my Chamber where I ſleep, and fetches them again when work begins in the Morning. Therefore to have ſuch a Bulk of *Canvas* gone, it muſt come to paſs that we muſt be all Four in the Conſpiracy. And, that too being granted, it was in nature as difficult a matter to put in execution (becauſe it muſt be in the Day time, in the Face and view of Five or Six Hundred People, Labourers and Officers) as for a man to walk in the *Exchange* at Noon day, and (inſenſibly) ſteal by degrees all their goods out of their Shops. But to the purpoſe, and to clear the matter more Convincingly; pray caſt an Eye upon theſe two Vouchers for a great quantity of *Canvas*, (the originals being in my hand ready to be produced) which being caſt up amounteth to as much, if not more then is pretended to be Imbezelled. And yet theſe Vouchers diſcountenanced and not admitted into the laſt

Ballance: That the firſt raſh and too haſty information might ſeem to carry the Face and Similitude of Truth. And as God is the God of Truth, I ſpeak Truth, that any imbezlement of this nature is as far from either my knowledg or belief, as from the knowledg of an Infant Child. And I am confident the Officers (if asked the Queſtion,) will ſay they are apt to believe I am abuſed through miſtakes.

Jeſu relieve me out of this Miſery, whilſt my Honour bleeds to varniſh the Trophies of another Perſon.

New ſixth Rate Frigat
9th of Auguſt, *1672.*

Pray deliver unto Suſan Harris *for the making of new Sailes for that Frigat.*

	Cloaths.	*Yards deep.*
Main Courſes	2 — 19	10
Fore Courſes	2 — 16	9 ½.
Miron of great Noyells	1 — 7	14.
Main Bonnet Holl. Duch	1 — 19	2 ½.
Fore Bonnet	1 — 16	2.
Bolts and Reene-bands.		29 yards.
Main top-ſails.	2 — 16½	12 ½.
Fore top-ſails great Noyells	2 — 14½	11 ½.
Sprit-ſail	1 — 13	4 ½.
Bolts and Reene-bands		28 yards.
Main top-gallan ſail	1 — 7	5.
Fore top-gallan-ſail	1 — 6	4.
Sprit-ſail top ſail	1 — 7½	6.
Miron top-ſail Vittery	1 — 7	5.
Miron ſtay-ſail	1 — 5½	10.
Main top-ſail	1 — 5	9.
Fore top-ſtay-ſail	1 — 4½	8.
Top ſtudd-ſails	2 — 5	13 ½.
Main ſtudd-ſails	2 — 5½	23.
Main ſtay-ſails ſmall Noyells	1 — 7	11.

Hugh Salesbury *John Moore.*

To the Keeper of the Stores.

Hampſhire

Hamſhire Frigat
26th. Auguſt 1672.

Pray deliver unto Suſan Harris *for the making of new Sails for His Majeſties ſaid Ship.*

	Cloathes.	*Yards deep.*
Fore Courſes	2 — 27	11½.
Fore top-ſails	2 — 20½ — 2	14.
Main Courſes great Noyells	3 — 31	12½.
Main top ſails	2 — 23½ — 2	16.
Miron Courſe	1 — 10	16.
Bolts and Reeve bands for *Ditto* Sails of great Noyals.		52 Yards.

Hugh Salesbury *John Moor.*

To the Keeper of the Stores.

Here are two Vouchers, which (being caſt up) will amount to the quantity, if not more then is pretended to be loſt. Now be pleaſed to conſider this Evidence following.

Cornelius Price *ſaith upon Examination and will depoſe.*

That he did ſhow Mr. *Dean* the Books, wherein theſe two Vouchers were entered; for the cutting a great quantity of *Canvas* into Sails for the new Sixth Rate Frigat, (then upon the Stocks, and ſince call'd the *Grey-hound*) and the *Hampſhire* Frigat dated in *Auguſt* 1672. and the ſaid Mr. *Dean* would not allow the expence of that *Canvas* upon this laſt account.

Further, that he doth not accuſe any Perſon, nor can he ſay that there are wanting any *Locks*, *Spring-Locks*, *Spring-Bolts*, *Hatchets*, *Scrapers*, *Dovetails*, *&c.* but doth verily believe there was no ſuch Imbezlement, but miſtakes and want of due ſearch of the Books: And that the defects of that nature (if any) were before Colonel *Slingesby* came to that imployment.

That there was a parcel of *Sheathing Lead*, which was brought down, and uſed upon the *Phœnix*, and not brought into the Stores, but kept in Mr. *Deans* own cuſtody.

It was an Odd raſh thing to charge me with the Imbezlement of that

which

which now he muſt anſwer for. The *Canvas* I ſuppoſe is ſufficiently cleared with the Iron Trade, mentioned in his Schedule. Certainly, a Gentleman muſt ſtrangely degenerate to Foil his Fingers with ſuch Tinkers Stuff, if he knew how, or to whom to diſpoſe of them. Nay, we play at ſmall game rather than ſit our, to fill up the meaſure of my iniquity; and alledge there are Four Leather Scuppers worth Groats a piece; Two Watch Bells and Two Cabin Bells wanting, all which are as ſafe as the Five Cables pretended to be loſt, from Sixteen Inches to Eleven. But to clear things further, both in reference to *Canvas* and the reſt, I go to further Evidence.

Simon Coward *ſaith upon Examination and will depoſe.*

That for ſeveral years laſt paſt he hath been imployed as an Aſſiſtant to the Store Keeper of His Majeſties Yard, and have been Conſcious to ſeveral Receipts and Iſſues of the ſaid Stores. And that in reference to the Imbezlement of the ſeveral parcels of His Majeſties Stores of Iron work, Canvas, *&c.* Wherewith Colonel *Slingesby* ſtands charged; he ſaith that he doth not know of any imbezlement of the ſaid Stores made by Colonel *Slingesby* or his Aſſiſtants, neither doth he believe there was any ſuch imbezlement, but conceiveth it ought to be imputed to Mis-entrys, or want of due ſearch of the Books.

And as to the Jackes, and Enſignes mentioned in the charge, he ſaith, that to his knowledge they have been ſeveral times ſurveyed, and found to be Rat eaten, torn, or Moth eaten when they firſt came, and being unfit for ſervice; were always thrown aſide amongſt the old Lumber.

It ſeems, as the Colours are not imbezel'd, being viſibly in the Stores: there will a queſtion ariſe whether I or the Rats is queſtionable in this great miſdemeanour, and which is the Vermin puniſhable. But more Evidence followes.

John Bishop *upon Examination ſaith and will depoſe.*

That for ſeveral years laſt paſt he hath been imployed as a Labourer or Aſſiſtant to the Store Keeper of His Majeſties Dock-yard of *Portſmouth.* And as to the imbezlement of the ſeveral parcels of His Majeſties Stores mentioned of *Canvas, Iron work,* &c. Wherewith Colonel *Slingesby* ſtandeth charged: He ſaith that he doth not know of any imbezlement of the ſaid Stores: but believeth that the ſuſpition was occaſioned by the grand miſtakes of the Surveys.

And as to the Colours mentioned and charged, as part of the imbezlement,

ment, he ſaith that ſeveral of the ſaid Colours, when they were firſt brought into the Stores, were *Moth* eaten, and (upon the Surveys made) thrown away amongſt the old ſtuff.

Why were theſe things charged when the matter comes to nothing? Theſe Colours I will depoſe upon the holy word of God, were here before I came. I ſee we muſt come to the Year of our Lord 1669 and 70. to make good a raſh act. Mr. *Pitts* is terrified, his Boy cheriſhed, the Ballance too palpably diſordered. What will this tend to, when I am to do pennance for my Predeceſſors ſins. This muſt come to Reparation of honour.

James Etherington *Sail-maker further ſaith and will depoſe.*

That, as to the *Canvas* mentioned in the charge; upon the 9th of *Auguſt* 1672. a Warrant was iſſued out from the Clerk of the Survey and Maſter of Attendance of His Majeſties Dock Yard for making of new Sails for the new Sixth Rate Frigat; and upon the 26. of *Auguſt* 72. another Warrant was iſſued out by the aforeſaid Officers for the making of new Sails for the *Hampſhire* Frigat; which ſaid Sails he the ſaid *James Etherington* cut out accordingly. But he ſaith that at the ſame time, there was ſo much buſineſs in the Dock Yard in Surveys, *&c.* and in reference to that, and the diſtance of time, he declareth he cannot punctually remember, how long it was before the ſaid Parcels of *Canvas* were cut out after the Teſt of either Warrant.

Now the better to juſtifie theſe Vouchers; I ſhall make it appear manifeſtly that the *Canvas* was ſent for up to *London*, and came by Wagon at Three ſeveral times; which was the occaſion the *Hampſhire* went not out of the Harbour till the latter end of *October*. I hope this may give ſatisfaction that thoſe Imbezlements have not been, which were laid to my charge: If more were charged and to be cleared, it would but ſhow a greater immoderation in the charge, and cauſe more and greater reflections which I ſhall forbear as much as conſiſts with my Defence.

If any *Canvas* be wanting, as certainly it cannot be much, it ſeems there are other ways of defrauding the King; the *Canvas* Lofts are broken into by Theives and Rogues, as appeareth by theſe evidences following.

William Leneret *Maſter* Rope-maker *of his Majeſties* Dock-Yard *at* Portſmouth *upon examination ſaith and will depoſe.*

That Colonel *Slingesby* for ſome time ſince, *viz.* as he conceiveth about

a Year and half agoe, came to him the ſaid *William*, and ſhewed unto him a ſhort broken green hafted Knife, then declaring that there was a hole broken out of the Rope-houſe into the Store-Loft, and one Door and Lock forced open into the Sail-Loft, and the ſaid Colonel told him that he found the ſaid knife there, and he deſired of him the ſaid *William* to enquire of the workmen whoſe the ſaid knife was, which he did accordingly, but could never find whoſe it was.

Mr. Gregory Peachye *Clerk of the* Rope-Yard *will depoſe the ſame Verbatim.*

I did complain to Mr. *Dean*, and reminded him of it, that if poſſible, ſuch perſons might be detected: but I could never have anſwer, or diſcover any inclination in him to examine the matter, which among rational men is ſufficient to raiſe a violent ſuſpition. But this violence was not practiſed alone it ſeems; for we have a Sail-maker call'd *Voxe* who will depoſe that he found a bundle of Picklocks hid in a Gun upon the Key at the ſtern of the Dock. All the ſad effects of theſe violences it ſeems muſt fall heavy upon me, which had been prevented, if care had been taken for the diſcovery.

Now I muſt ſay ſomthing touching the nature of thoſe depoſitions taken againſt me: to ſhew how dangerous a thing it is (to give it no worſe Character) to intrude words, and aggravating words, which the Deponents never ſpoke, and which will ſhake the whole, as to the validity and legality of them. One word being of that weight in evidence, as it may be placed, that it may turn the Scale either to Life or Death.

Nicholas Hammond *of* Portſmouth Rope-maker *upon Examination ſaith and will depoſe.*

That he bought ſome parcels of ſtuff; call'd Fag-ends of Colonel *Slingesby*, but he never bought of him any Cordage; nor did he declare at the time of his Examination by Commiſſioner *Dean*, that the ſaid Colonel did ever ſell him any: But that he accepted againſt the word Cordage; and that it was put into his information without his conſent or knowledg.

Another of the ſame nature and birth followeth.

Thomas Dameron *of* Portſmouth Rope-maker *upon Examination ſaith and will depoſe.*

That Colonel *Slingesby* never ſold him any Cordage, but at ſeveral times he bought ſome Fag-ends of him the ſaid Colonel. And he further ſaith, that when he was examined on that Point before Commiſſioner *Dean*, he then

then declared that he never bought any Cordage of the ſaid Colonel; and ſaith further, that if any ſuch words were inſerted into the teſtimony at that time or ſince it was contrary to his knowledg, privity, or conſent.

And now James Etherington *Sail-maker ſaith and will depoſe.*

That he was ſo affrighted and threatned; that upon his Examination he knew not what he ſaid: that he would not for the World uſe that word ſold, *viz.* that he would not for the World ſwear that Colonel *Slingesby* ſold that *Canvas* to him; but that he had lent him mony ſeveral times in ſmall ſumms; but whether it was upon the credit of the *Canvas* or no, he cannot ſay.

It is acknowledged I had mony in ſmall petty ſumms ſeveral times of Loan from the ſaid *James Etherington* for neceſſary uſes: The ſame being oftner hard to come by in the Dock-yard, unleſs with thoſe who had a Stock. But the ſame was never upon the credit or account of any *Canvas* whatſoever: Nor did I ever think of ſuch a thing but only as a common friendly kindneſs. And now ſeeing Mr. *Pits* will be Dumb, and not be perſwaded to ſpeak to any Interrogatory: (by which obſtinacy the Truth is like to be ſtifled, and never come to Light) I ſhall declare, and will depoſe when cal'd to it, that (meeting with Mr. *Pits* in the Yard, little before or after *Chriſtmas* in the Year 1672. When he returned up his Ballance for the Year preceeding) I demanding of him how the laſt Ballance did agree, and how approved of above, and that he reply'd *All things were even, fair and not to be found fault withal.* How is it poſſible then in any rational mans judgment, ſuch a grand waſt and imbezlement ſhould be made in one Year? I will likewiſe depoſe (if called to it) that meeting the ſaid Mr. *Pitts* in the Yard as he landed from *Goſport*, after he had finiſhed the Ballance of 1673. upon which all this depends, I did demand of him, how the Ballance for that Year ſtood? and that he reply'd that there was little or no difference in matter of *Canvas*, *Cables*, or *Cordage*: But a very vaſt difference in other things without doors meaning *Timber*, *Planks*, *Maſts*, *&c.* And yet after he had ſpoke with and conſulted others, he ſent me word there was Three Thouſand and odd yards wanting, and ſince it is improved to Five Thouſand and odd. Certainly this muſt needs convince all moderate and indifferent men, that the dealings have not been ſo fair with me, as ought to have been. I have been put of late years to hard ſhifts enough, but could never be induced to take upon me ſo baſe a Trade.

I will further depoſe if call'd to it, that I was preſent in Mr. *Deans* Cloſet

ſet with two or three of the beſt Officers of the Yard, when Mr. *Dean* demanded of the ſaid Mr. *Pits*, if he were ſure that he made the Ballance right or no? To which he reply'd *That he had done it as well as he could do it.* And being preſt to ſpeak more poſitively, he gave the ſame anſwer three times, and no other: What a fine condition, and in what little eaſe a Store Keeper ſits, when he muſt be reſponſible for the defects of Ballance; and ſuffer becauſe a man can do no better?

I know not what ſin I have committed, that I have been thus perſecuted, unleſs it be a ſawcineſs in me to be better eſteemed of than who are offended at it.

I have always thought this imploy fit for a careful, juſt, and painful perſon. But I was educated otherwiſe, and my blind ſide was quickly diſcovered, and ſtumbling blocks laid in my way to throw me out of a poor livelyhood in my old Age, which I looked upon almoſt as good as a Freehold. I had a value for it, becauſe it was His Royal Highneſſes favour, and hope yet to wear it for His ſake, to ſhew all Imaginable duty to whom I will decline no difficulty, or danger, either of Fire or Water, and to preſerve his good Opinion, will ſerve him in the meaneſt capacity he will think fit.

I will appeal to all Perſons, both within and without the Dock Yard (who have ſeen my deportment) whether they do not think in their Conſciences, and believe; that through great miſtakes in accounts or wilfulneſs I am abuſed or no? I need (I think) ſay no more, hoping I have ſufficiently quitted my ſelf of that ſevere charge which hath ſo heavily laid upon me, in the judgment of all my friends and and ingenious men. Only conclude with this Aſſertion.

That ſince the Famous Old Athæneans *gave the World Moral Rules, and the Fathers of the Chriſtian Church Precept of vertue: Since there hath been Humanity in the World, and civil ſociety among Mankind, there was ſcarce ever a Groſſer abuſe put upon a Gentleman.*

FINIS.

YALE UNIVERSITY MAY 5 1942